

Provisional Applications Serial Nos. 60/091,076, filed June 29, 1998 and 60/090,993, filed June 29, 1998.

REMARKS

The priority claim on the first page, after the list of inventors but before the "Field of Inventors" of the specification has been amended to include patent numbers available for the priority applications.

No new matter has been added and no additional claim fee is due. Claims 28-32, 34-37, 40-44, 47-49 and 58-60 are pending in the application after the amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 28-32, 34-37, 40-44, 47-48, and 58-59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by McIver et al., US Patent No 6,066,673. It contended in the Final Office Action that McIver anticipates these claims. Applicants respectively traverse the rejection.

McIver was issued on May 23, 2000 and has a filing date of March 12, 1998. Applicants respectfully point to the fact that the instant invention has an earlier priority date of November 14, 1997. Consequently, McIver is unavailable as prior art. Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the clarifying amendments, it is respectfully requested that rejection of Claim 28-32, 34-37, 40-44, 47-48, and 58-59 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

In the noted office action, Claim 49 has been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 6,160,198. The Applicants will file a terminal disclaimer upon the indication of allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants respectively submit that Claims 28-32, 34-37, 40-44, 47-49 and 58-60 are allowable over the prior art of record or any combination thereof. All of the Examiner's rejections and objections have been addressed. The proposed amendments to the specification and claims do not add new matter and are made merely to help the Examiner understand what would be readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art. In the event that any issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, then the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned agent to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

On page 1, before FIELD OF THE INVENTION, please amend as indicated

CROSS REFERENCE

This is a continuation-in-part of under 35 U.S.C. §120 of Patent Applications Serial Nos. 09/107,561, filed June 29, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,149,636; 09/106,225, filed June 29, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,186,991; and 08/970,508, filed November 14, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,957,906; and claims priority to Provisional Applications Serial Nos. 60/091,076, filed June 29, 1998 and 60/090,993, filed June 29, 1998.